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ion, and considers him wrong in a number of other points. He describes a division which is only known in Actinosphærum, where it was described some time ago by Grube.

The principal thing is that it begins with a change in the nucleolus, which breaks up into a great many little particles. These particles are arranged in a definite way so as to form different figures, of which the rod-like form (stäbchenform) is the most common and characteristic. The substance of the nucleus is not modified at all, and only its exterior form is changed. From a spherical vessel it changes to an elliptical, and then into a biscuit-shaped body, after which stage the division takes place.

Will also criticises the "keimbläschentheorie" of A. Brandt, where Brandt considers the germinal vesicle a cell. The theory is based on the idea that the germinal vesicle equals the epithelial as well as the blastodermic cells. Will finds that this basis is false and consequently the theory built upon it is also false.—*B. Sharp.*

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

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Martin, N., and Brooks, W. K.—Studies from the Biological Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, 1883. Vol. II, No. 4. From the editors.

Simmonds, P. L.—A Dictionary of Useful Animals and their Products, with a Glossary. London, 1883, E. and F. N. Spon. From the publishers.

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——Sur la valeur morphologique de l'articulation mandibulaire, du cartilage de Meckel, et des osselets de l'ouie, etc. All dated Bruxelles, 1883, and from the author.

Miller, S. A.—Glyptocrinus redefined and restricted, Gaurocrinus, Pycnocrinus and Compsocrinus established and two new species described. Ext. Jour. Cin. Soc. Nat. Hist., 1883. From the author.

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Cope, E. D.—Palæontological Bulletin, No. 37. Philadelphia, Jan. 2, 1884.

Powell, J. W.—Human Evolution. Presidential address delivered before the Anthropological Society of Washington, Nov. 6, 1883. From the author.

——Third Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey, 1881–82. Washington, 1883. From the department.

Fritsch, A.—Fauna der Gaskohle, Bœhmen's, etc. From the author.

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Brinton, D. G.—Aboriginal American Authors, and their productions. Phila., 1883. From the author.

Leidy, Jos.—*Urnatella gracilis*, a fresh-water Polyzoan. Reprint from the Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phil., 1883. From the author.

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Hebert, M. E.—Notions générales de Géologie. Paris, 1884. From the author.

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——The Volcanic Tufts of Challis, Idaho, and other Western localities. Ext. Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci. All from the author.

Peirce, M. P.—Carp and Carp Culture. Harrisburg, 1882. From the author.

Zittel, K. A.—Die Sahara. Ihre physische und geologische Beschaffenheit. Cassel, 1883. From the author.

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GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.[1]

Asia and the Asiatic Islands.—Mr. C. Trotter's paper upon New Guinea, read before the British Association, contains much general information. Geologically this large island is nearly related to Australia, its separation from which is probably not earlier than the Lower Miocene. West of the Gulf of Papua the ground is low and swampy, with isolated hills which probably were once islands. Westwards as far as Princess Marianne island the sea is so shallow and the coast so low that nothing is visible from shipboard. Here a great submarine bank extends to the Aru islands. The west and north coasts are mainly precipitous—the cliffs frequently of recent limestone, with raised coral beaches—broken by considerable rivers, with flat mangrove-covered banks, affording access to the interior. Except at these spots the densely wooded mountains make access very difficult. The north coasts are almost free from reefs, but the south coast is skirted by one

[1] This department is edited by W. N. Lockington, Philadelphia.